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MEPI in 2010— apply for a grant!

- The Tunis Regional Office has around \$2 million to support grants in the region.
- Make this the year to become involved with your community...and MEPI activities!

Responsible Citizenship is the Concern of Moroccan Youth

By Wahid Labidi



A group photo of the participants

The Arab Foundation for Development and Citizenship (AFDC) in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program—Information and Communication Technology for Development of Arab Region (UNDP– ICTIDAR) and through the support of MEPI organized in November 2009 two workshops on "the Concept of Responsible Citizenship" in Casablanca, Morocco. The workshops, which were attended by forty young Moroccan men and women, come as part of the AFDC's project to spread the culture of responsible citizenship, which is based on

the balance between rights and responsibilities. In a pre-questionnaire most of selected candidates expressed their need to instigate responsible citizenship in their communities, in a way that would empower them to enjoy their rights and enable them to carry out their responsibilities in return.

(Continued on Page 2)

The Arab Foundation for Development and Citizenship (AFDC) seeks to promote the concept of citizenship, by promoting the values of human rights and democracy in the Arab World. The United Nations Development Program—Information and Communication Technology for Development of Arab Region (UNDP– ICTIDAR) relies on a strategic approach to implement the ongoing projects in the region. It realizes the vision of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which set clear targets for reducing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women by 2015.

For more details about the ADFDC and the UNDP-ICTIDAR please visit:
www.arabfcd.org
www.ictdar.org

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Along the sessions, participants reviewed the rights as they are set out in international human rights law and studied relevant Moroccan legislation as well as the impact of each provision of some of these initiatives. It is important to note that these two workshops come as part of a comprehensive project that is being implemented by AFDC in Morocco, Algeria,



The Video is produced by Abderrahim Al Hani, Podcasting Club, Sale

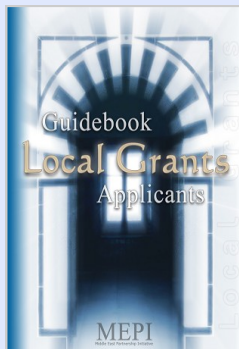
these rights on youth and society. Then they presented suggestions of initiatives that they can implement in their local communities, which would strengthen their "Responsible Citizenship" concept and help them to better develop it in their respective communities. Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon targeting 200 young men and women and aiming at creating a responsible Arab Citizen through trainings and engagement in relevant follow-up programs at local level. The project is supported by a 2009 MEPI Civil Society Grant. ■ AFDC will consider supporting

Submit Your Grant Applications Now!

Funding is available now for Local Grants. Please contact your country's U.S. Embassy MEPI Committee and see the guidebook available on our

[website](http://www.medregion.mepi.state.gov) for step-by-step instructions in English and Arabic.

www.medregion.mepi.state.gov



By MEPI Grants Unit

Salaries are very often a subject of confusion when we try to prepare a budget. Sometimes this leads to avoidable disallowable costs.

In general terms, except for organization-furnished vehicles, all salaries, fringe benefits and related costs can be allowable when reasonable, necessary to the project and allocable to it.

The salary of an employee hired under a federally funded project is considered reasonable when it is comparable to that paid to another employee doing similar work for non federally funded activity or, if that data is not available, comparable to salaries paid by similar organization doing a similar kind of work. For example, an organization cannot pay a MEPI funded training project manager double the amount it paid an election monitoring project manager 6 months before.

In any case the salary has to be reasonable when compared to the services rendered. It also needs to conform to the written personnel policies adopted and implemented by the recipient organization. This implies that the organization shouldn't breach its own policies to take advantage of the additional funding available. The MEPI reviewers will pay special attention to hiring of trustees and officers and their relatives. An unreasonable increase in the level of compensation coinciding with the awarding of new grant can be disallowed, even if supported by a change in the policies of the organization.

Finally to be able to demonstrate the allocability of the salary costs to the project, the recipient organization must prepare the payroll based on an after-the-fact time-sheet for each employee determining its actual activity. This means that the time sheet shouldn't be pre-filled according to the budgeted time allocated for the project. The time-sheet covers one pay-period and is counter-signed by the immediate supervisor of the employee. Failure to document the payroll correctly will result in rejection of the costs in case of review.

A lot more details related to this issue can be found in [The Code of Federal Regulations: Part 230 on Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations](#): Appendix B- Selected Items of Costs: item 8- Compensation for personal services. ■

MEPI Confronting Corruption and Supporting Good Governance

December 9, The International Anti-Corruption Day

"We have identified corruption as the single greatest obstacle to economic and social development."

—The World Bank

MEPI Empowers Future Young Leaders on Parliamentary Work to Prevent Corruption

In the Palestinian Territories, the MEPI grant to the Society Voice Foundation (SVF), a registered Palestinian NGO, is building capacities and raising awareness among youth on how to conduct an advocacy campaign to combat corruption. Through the "Empower Future Leadership on Parliamentary Work to Prevent Corruption" project, SVF is training 150 young leaders, aged between 25 and 35, in parliamentary work.

The project held the first of five four-day training workshops that will be conducted in different parts of Gaza Strip. The first training session was informative and focused on raising Palestinian youths' awareness on how to conduct an advocacy campaign and exposed participants to the United Nations agreement on facing corruption in the Palestinian Territories.

Following the training sessions participants were divided into

smaller groups to study projects, uncover corruption and identify ways to address it.

In November, SVF broadcasted two radio programs. The first program was on the role of youth in facing and preventing corruption and the second one was on the role of youth and political participation. Apart from radio programs, SVF organized four town hall meetings. The last meeting was organized in November. Twenty-five participants from different institutions attended the meeting and discussed the role of youth in effecting social change.

The project will broadcast twelve radio programs in total to debate the role of youth in facing and preventing corruption in Palestinian society. In addition, twenty-four town hall meetings are planned to instill concepts such as transparency, accountability and integrity in governance. ■



Department of State/Bureau of International Information Program

Anti-corruption Public Awareness Campaign through Theatre

Association Théâtre Aquarium, a registered Moroccan NGO, implemented a project called "Anti-corruption Public Awareness Campaign through Theatre".

On December 7, Aquarium launched its first campaign through the performance of the "Al Hor Bel Ghamza" play that addresses the issue of corruption. The play coincides with the International Anti-Corruption Day. The

performance is the first of a series that will be performed across the country to raise awareness about the threat of corruption and the importance of fighting its pernicious effects on society.

Targeting 12,000 Moroccan citizens, the project will utilize 30 theatrical performances in total in partnership with various NGOs to educate people about transparency, accountability and integrity in governance. ■

The Role of Civil Society in Facing Corruption

Governments in the Americas agreed to a regional anticorruption convention in 1996, but it was not until several years later, at the instigation of civil society organizations led by Transparency International, that parties to the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption agreed to a Follow-Up Mechanism to promote implementation. Since creation of the mechanism, civil society has pressed for ever broader opportunities to present its views and to engage with governments in promoting implementation. With those opportunities, it has provided a critical nongovernmental perspective and momentum for reform. Civil society has played a similar role in reviews of enforcement of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Convention on Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and of the anticorruption conventions of the Council of Europe and its Group of States Against Corruption. It is clear from experience with this and other anticorruption conventions that civil society plays a key role in promoting action on the ground. As Transparency International has pointed out in its recommendations to the Conference of States Parties, a critical component of such a process will be transparency and broad and reliable opportunities for civil society participation. ■

MEPI Alumni

MEPI Legal and Business Fellowship Program Empowers Participants to Face Future Challenges

The Legal and Business Fellowship Program (LBFP) is sponsored by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and administered by (AMIDEAST). The program provides young women specialized in business and law an opportunity to practice their professional skills and gain real-world experience to help them grow as professionals and advocate for an improved investment climate and legal reforms in their host countries.

Twenty-two Arab women were selected for their impact as legal and business leaders from countries across the Middle East and North Africa.

The program started on April 21 and ended on August 18, 2009. The Fellowship included a four-week course at the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School, in Philadelphia followed by a three-month professional training in various prestigious U.S. Law Firms and companies.

Lebanese participants shared their experiences as part of the LBFP Program.



Rita Abou Aoun

"The four-months LBFP expanded my knowledge and professional skills. It empowered me to face future challenges and to look for new challenges!"

Rita Bou Aoun, 26, a trainee lawyer specialized in international business law, talked about her experience as a participant in the LBFP program. "I was very fortunate to participate in the Legal and Business Fellowship Program (LBFP) organized and funded by (MEPI). The four-month LBFP program expanded my knowledge and professional skills. It empowered me to

"LBFP was a great achievement for me on both personal and professional levels. It drives me forward every day to work harder to achieve my goals."

face future challenges and look for new challenges!"

"Being selected and going on this program was a lifetime experience," said Sara Ali, Business Information Security Officer and Technology Consultant,

in Citibank in Lebanon. With much enthusiasm, Ali added that "LBFP was a great achievement for me on both personal and professional level. It drives me forward every day and reminds me that we have skills which the world needs and we should constantly develop them and work harder to achieve our goals."

For Walaa Tfaily, a personal banker, in SGBL Bank in Lebanon, the training went beyond achieving the academic and professional goals to reach to a personal and life experience. "We had a personality test that reflected our inner strengths and weaknesses. We learned about social wealth creation, entrepreneurial skills, finance...and most importantly knew more about ourselves" said Tfaily.

Three-month fellowship in top-tier U.S. companies:

After completion of the academic program, the women were relocated to different U.S. cities to complete a three-month fellowship in top-tier U.S. companies and law firms.

Sara Ali, had her internship at Intel. The internship "gave me excellent exposure to the U.S. market." At Intel, Ali joined the Emerging Markets Platform Group (EMPG), which is responsible for creating and marketing an end-to-end education solution called Intel Learning Series. "My role was to drive the

"We learned about social wealth creation, entrepreneurial skills, and finance and most importantly knew more about ourselves"

usage of a customer relationship management system (CRM) which the group recently deployed and write a user's manual and promote awareness on how to fully utilize the system," explained Ali.

Tfaily had also her internship in Intel Corp, at



Walaa Tfaily

the Emerging Market Platform Group (EMPG). The internship in (EMPG) "brought what we learned at Wharton into practice, and I really enjoyed this activity that involves spreading education through technology, creating jobs and sufficient economies in some very poor places in the world, And being part of this unit, even for a short period of time, is really something to be proud of". ■